

Group VI: Claims 20-25, drawn to a vector for expression of GAD in cells of the central nervous system.

For the purpose of being responsive to the outstanding Office Action, Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, the Group I invention (claims 1-19, drawn to a method of treating Parkinson's disease).

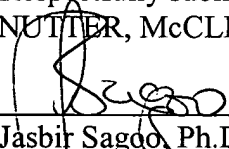
Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement as improper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested because the broad unifying concept of the invention that is reiterated in all the claims, is that of using a *nucleic acid sequence encoding glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD)* that is delivered to *target cells of the central nervous system* (e.g., a region of the brain), or vectors that contain such nucleic acid sequences, and expressing the GAD protein to reduce a neurodegenerative disease.

The expressed GAD protein interacts with cells in the central nervous system that have the GAD receptor. Such cells may be present and involved in any number of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, epilepsy, and senile dementia. Thus, even though the different diseases produce different effects, all the cells in the central nervous system involved in the disease that have the GAD receptor, can be treated by expressing the GAD protein. Accordingly, a single search would suffice.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below so that any remaining issues can be discussed.

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Respectfully submitted,
NUTTER, McCLENNEN & FISH, LLP



Jasbir Sagoo, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 51,177
Agent for Applicant

World Trade Center West
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, MA 02210
Tel: (617)439-2994
Fax: (617)310-9994